

Mt. Carroll, May 17th, 1853

Tuesday, 10 o'clock, A.M.

About Love

Dear Sister,

Yours of the 8th inst. was received yesterday. I am glad to hear you are well and getting along so nicely with house cleaning. I hope you have got through without getting sick. I have delayed writing so long for two reasons: one, that I have been so very busy; and another that we might get a start in our school so as to know what to write about it. I am home today, half mad with the tooth ache; go cold and settled in my face, all swelled up, as it was one time a year ago; it's not likely I shall write very scientific. Isaac left us a week ago today, went to Savana and so down the river the next morning to Ockwauka, I believe, and so direct to Peoria, etc. You doubtless saw the announcement of our arrival etc. at this place in the Mt. Carroll paper of the 10th. Isaac subscribed for it so you will doubtless keep posted up in our proceedings, that is as far as anything of consequence transpires, as Mr. Wilson says, we have "the Press" strong on our side. You have doubtless received a third letter by this time, as we mailed one at Janesville, Wis. Perhaps I better date my letter back to that place and so tell you all about our journey through to this place.

Well - we <sup>were</sup> detained by the rain at Janesville till Friday morning (6th inst) and finally were obliged to start, and ride in the rain and wind nearly half of the time we were on the road. We took a private conveyance from J. to this place paying the man \$20 and we were fortunate at that, for the roads were perfectly awful, almost impassible in many places; the stages met with accidents almost hourly, two or three stuck in the mud and passengers being obliged to leave them, one stuck there all night and is there yet for aught I know. Several were upset and passengers bruised and scratched and frightened most to death etc. etc.; finally, we with such heavy baggage! etc. would not probably have got through by stage under a week at least, beside the risk of our necks, trunks, etc. Well, as I was saying, we set out from J. Friday morning passed through Beloit, arriving at Rockton to dinner; about three o'clock we left R. and got off some ten miles of the Prairie towards Freeport when night overtook us and we put up at a very neat, respectable looking place on the outside, but the inside! oh Chloe! Well it was not a "regular public house," but they were in the habit of "accommodating" people - the woman was sickly, had poor help and as a matter of course a great snarl of young ones! Well we concluded we wouldn't have supper! In the morning it rained hard as ever but we couldn't stay so after breakfast, set out again, got about half a mile on our road, came to a glue and got stuck in the mud! Well, we had as fine a team and good driver as could be scared up, but the tacklin' wernt strong enough, first one whiffletree broke, the driver went back and got another and put on but by that time we were completely slewed. Cinda and I got out and walked a rail out onto solid footing, the horses gave another pull and broke a tug. The men then unloaded the baggage, whole kit and cargo! the horses tried again, broke another tug on the empty wagon, and not a heavy one for a spring wagon either, well, then they got rails and pried the wheels up till the horses could draw it out: meanwhile it was raining quite smartly so Cinda and I took our umbrella and started along on foot, thinking a little exercise would be better than standing still, we had a fine chance to prospect -- well after about two hours we were snugly loaded up and on our way again; We reached Freeport about two o'clock, where we stopped for dinner, but on taking our usual peep into the kitchen, we concluded to fast till we reached our next stopping place! Freeport is about 25 miles from here and we thought to get to our journey's end Saturday evening but the traveling be so very bad we were obliged to put up at Cherry Grove, a beautiful little place, ten miles from here. I can assure you it seemed good to get among civilized people again, it seemed like getting home almost. We had enquired at every stopping place for Mt. Carroll, but no one seemed to know anything about the place or "Siminary" and we began to



think Mt. C no great place, but after we left Freeport, the country was so much prettier and the roads (being on a beautiful rolling Prairie) much better, we began to feel as though we were not going entirely out of the world into the bushes. and then when we got to the grove we found sensible people who knew there was such a place as Mt. C and that there was to be a Seminary there and very politely furnished us with the "Republican" of that week in which was quite a long article advocating our enterprise, etc. Well the fun of it was I had given express orders that no one should tell we were the ladies destined for the enterprise, as we did not feel like being subjected to any criticism just then, but in less than two hours all in the house were fully aware that those were "the" "Seminary ladies," but it seems all for the best however, for we succeeded in pleasing the Landlady so well that she has sent on her oldest daughter, a fine young lady of 19, although as the old lady said, "she didn't see how in the world she was going to get along without her." Well, Sunday morning we drove into town and put up at the American Hotel. Isaac called on Mr. Wilson who came to the Hotel and invited us to his house till we should get a boarding place, which we did the next day.

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The country around Mt. Carroll is the most beautiful of any we have seen, excepting ~~xxxx~~ not even Janesville the Prairies are not so very large and quite rolling in appearance, like the waves of the sea almost. This section too is much better improved, the building being good and roads fenced in, etc.etc. The village is - the ville of Mt. C. contains about eight hundred inhabitants, (that is half as many as Ballston Spa has). It's natural advantages are numerous: a beautiful stream, which affords fine mill privileges, seem to almost encircle the town and all along its opposite bank are beautiful little mounts for building locations. Squire Goss one of principal men here invited us out prospecting on Saturday, for to admire the beauties of the town and give our opinion about the site for the Seminary buildings, which, by the way, they purpose getting erected this summer, the books are open for subscription, and as you will see by the Republican of the 17th inst. something over three hundred shares were taken in one day, though Mr. W. Miller (member of Legislature, states Attorney, etc.etc.) who by the way boards with us, said some days ago that he had got taken himself in one half day twenty five hundred dollars and knew of at least ten hundred more that was secure. At any rate there is considerable excitement upon the subject and ~~ixxx~~ there seems no doubt but that the enterprise will succeed and even exceed our most sanguine expectations. So far as the honor, fame, etc. is concerned! but the profits will be anything but large for the present but then our labor will not be anything like as hard as if we were alone in a school for if one of us is not well, we can lay by, etc. Well, as I have said before, we secured our boardingplace on Monday (the day after we got here) and got moved and settled. Now I suppose you'd like a miniature of our boarding house.

Well in the first place, it's "The Boarding House" of Mt. C. a neat little brick building situated on Main street opposite the Presbyterian church in which our school is at present. Mr. Byron Seaman is our landlord and his sister, landlady, their mother, an old lady, lives with them. Our family at present consists of Mr. Hallet and lady, (he's a merchant here) "Wm. Miller Esqr." and mother, Mr. Bailey (a young lawyer) and the two "Seminary ladies," Misses Wood & G. Cinda and I have the best room the house affords, which is the front parlor: it's furnished with a bed, side table for writing etc. a center table for our books, etc. a clock, washstand and appurtenances pertaining thereto, a lounge, rocking chair, set of chairs, looking glass, and an open Franklin stove: the walls ornamented with our pictures, etc. Now don't you think we have quite a cozy time of it -- Our floor has a sale carpet on it too! cover it well over and a mat before the stove and one on each side of the door -- all the above names is exclusively ours. Now as to eatables it's the best place I have ever boarded at except Mrs. Bird's at Stillwater, in fact I don't know but I like this the better of the two



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for besides everything beind done up clean and good it's all on quite a liberal plan, the chunks of puding and pieces of pie are cut after the largest kind of a patern and usually two kinds at that: the biscuits, large, light, and most like home cookery of any place I ever hapened to stop at - and then there's no youngones around, not a chick or child on the premises and noe careless, dirty irish dabling around - don't you think we are very fortunate. And such appetites as we have is a caution to sick flks!! Seems as though I could eat anything, and yet it's not such an unhealthy craving appetite as I have had at times before.

Friday eventhing, 20th. Well, I have got over the tooth ache, though my face is some swollen yet: I got wroth and broke off one of the offenders so I guess I shall have quiet times now. Cinda had a little touch of sick headache yesterday the first one she has had since she was at our house, but she has recovered from it much sooner I think, than usual; I am in hopes she isnot going to be troubled so much as she used to be: her appetite is first rate, etc.etc. We both had colds when we got here, but we used Magnetic Ointment freely and I have taken bloodroot every night since I got here till last night and our colds have vanished as if by magic.

Now as to our school, all the trouble ther is, it'sprospects are too flatering, every things seemsto go so much more smoothly than we dared to expect that it makesus to fear that it may not be lasting. We number but twenty five as yet, but are just commencing, it's a new thing, people must have time to digest the subject somewhat; many more are coming. Mr. Wilson thinks we will have forty this quarter sure and fifty or sixty before the lose of the term. As you will see in the Republican, we have an Assistant, or rather a Teacher or Prof. of Languages to take our Latin class; it's the Rev. J.V.Allison, a Baptist minister who has lately come to this place from Philadelphia etc. The probability is we shall have to get a Music Teacher by another quarter. We are having rooms fitted up for our school which are going to be much more convenient than the church we now occupy: we go into them on Monday. Mr Wilson is very kind and attentive to all our wishes, he has taken the whole responsibility of having the rooms properly partitioned off, papering, whitewashing, cleaning and all, giving us no trouble only to give directions to him: also of getting us blackboards, tables chairs etc. they have offered to defray in part at leest the expence of our fixtures, but we chose to go on the independent plan, so the Trustees give up all to us to do just as we think best and taking all the income ourselves, let it be much or little as I presume it will be for the present, but I don't care if we but have good health, if we only pay our way for a time, if we can ultimately have a school that will be appreciated. PP I wish you would preserve all the Mt. Carroll papers you receive. Our week's work is done as we shall not teach Saturdays. We open school at precisely 9 and close at 4 punctually. We have several boarding scholars from the country around; two or three invitations ahead to go out with them to spend Saturday and Sundayetc. if I only had Greg here how we would go it. I have been sorry a good many times we did not bring him: I have not a doubt but I could have sold him for three hundred before this time, had I wished to part with him; horses are even higher here than east. The night before we left Janesville we had a ride after a span of \$600 horses! great coarse things, excepting the advantage of size, which made them more saleable, I wouldn't give Greg for both of them.

Tell Mary to be a good girl andtake good care of Mrs. Nash so she can come out west with her next summer. Tell her to write to me very soon and tell me all about the work andif you work so hard to get sick, etc.etc. If anything happens to us we can Telegraph to you in less than no time as the Office is near by in Mr. Wilson's room and he owns and opperates it so it won't cost us anything. and if you want us to come down to tea some evening just send a dispatch and we will be on hand in less than no time. The R.Road is goingthrough our village forthwith

Run  
Copy to  
pages



Friday evening  
Dear sister,

Our week's work is done, we've got thru tea and now are seated by the open windows of our parlor, sittingroom, etc. Well I wish you could just step in a little while, or I could get up Greg and drive out of town two or three miles and give you a call: how I do wish I had Greg here and by the way I will have if I remain any length of time. We are going to Savanna tomorrow, I expect to visit the "Father of waters." But some one comes in, excuse me for tonight.

Sunday P.M. We've been to two meetings today, had our tea and now am seated to finish this letter though the probability is I may not get it done under a week: I never had so little time for writing in my life; besides our labors, so many calls to receive and return, etc.etc. Cinda and I do not agree to attend the same church. She has a class in the Presbyterian and Baptist Sabbath school and I one in the Methodist. I wish there never was such a thing as sectarianism thought of: here's Domany Gray, the Presbyterian minister and President of our Board of Trustees, he and his sanctimonious wife had fits ever since they found we were not both stiff Presbyterians. Then Mr. Grimes (?) is a Methodist preacher (another of our Trustees) but he's far more liberal in his views. Then another of them is Hon. David Emmert, who's a Duncard preacher: and then again Rev. J.V. Allison (Baptist) is our teacher of Languages and so on --- Mr. Gray, he thinks no institution can be built up unless it has the influence of some popular religious sec, and of course that one (in his estimation) is the Presbyterian, and while we were to remain in his church with our school, he hoped it would be regarded as a Presbyterian school, but thank fortune we are in rooms of our own now, and when they get us under the control of any one party, sect or denomination they will know it I reckon----- but enough of this --

Well, we went to Savanna Saturday, as we expected, had a delightful time with the exception of suffering a good deal from fear when riding: Mr. Wilson took us out in the best establishment the town affords: a beautiful little span of cream colored horses, but he is no reinsman much and careless as fury and I expected to have my neck broken sure, but we got home safe, with four or five very narrow escapes from being upset. We crossed the Mississippi river to Sabula in Iowa, where we took dinner and unexpectedly met with a Normal (Miss Smith) who left Albany only last term; she is teaching back in Iowa a few miles from the river. I never saw so great a variety of scenery in one day as we passed through on Saturday: for the first four miles from Mt. Carroll we passed over as delightful sections of country as can well be imagined - beautiful rolling Prairie, all under the best of cultivation with trees and shrubbery enough grown and around buildings to break the monotony of prairie scenery; then the last six miles the country increases in roughness till it's almost mountainous (or about so much so as Galaway) till we get just to the town of Savanna where it opens out into a beautiful little plain running down to the river without the least sign of a bank for nearly a mile; but this plain is very narrow, not wide enough for two streets with yards, etc; then comes the bluffs, on which (if S ever becomes a city as they expect) they will be obliged to build: just about where Isaac owns that land. *Now* I tell you what I want to do; that is buy that property at Savanna. I was quite delighted with the location of the house upon it (the one where Wilson used to live) there's a beautiful row of locust trees around it and around a garden plot which W. set out some twelve years ago, so you may know they are quite large trees. It would be a splendid location for a Seminary building and I want to own it. I think however it will be some time before things will come around so as to make that land very valuable though there was a man to see W. about buying of Isaac who offered a hundred dollars per acre and W. thought he would yet offer \$150 per acre.



There is a good deal of rivalry between this town and Savanna. Now the difficulty about the Seminary buildings going on here, is the enormous price at which the lands (where it is any way desirable location) are held; now you see if I own a good location at S. it's not so far (only ten miles) but we can move our school there and the Mt. Carroll people knowing this will be incited to more liberal efforts to keep us here since it will be no small loss to the place and no mean acquisition to Savanna to have us locate there. So it will be policy for me to buy it even if I never go near it myself. Tell Isaac about it and have him write me how and what he will do and make necessary arrangements with Wilson about it - don't let him put it off, for our school matters

can't lie still, we've got to keep something moving. We labor under a great disadvantage for want of boarding places for our scholars, we have to have one in the room with us and every other place is full. She is from Kenosha, Wis. so far we didn't want to send her away again, etc. There are many more from the country and from Galena, Freeport, etc. who would come now if board could be procured; we must have a boarding house and that immediately; tell Aunt Chloe I wish she was here to take charge of it. Of our extra studies we have in Latin French and Painting. Cinda teaches the Painting and French and gets along like a book with it - nothing like trying! Cinda sends her love as usual and says she will write you soon. Let us hear from you very soon. Love to Aunt Chloe if she is with you now. Tell her I wish I had the time to write a bunch of things for her but I have not, so she must excuse me. Our love to all,  
Frank

Read our this week's Republican carefully, show Aunt Chloe our circulars, puffs, etc. so she will know what we are doing.

Saturday (11th) We are going home with two of our young ladies who live six miles out in the country and a week from next Sat. we are going with another one who lives some ten miles out, so you can just think of us enjoying our day's rest and I shall be heartily glad to get away from the village if for but one day for it's but little rest when here though out of school, for it's call, call and return calls till I am sick to death of it. There is no such thing as being an oyster here as David used to tell we were when in school.

F.A.W.

I did not finish my description of the scenery we passed on our excursion to Savanna, and as I have not time, you must get Isaac to give you the rest as he had seen the same. Tell him Mr. W. took us very near to the top of that highest bluff in the carriage so that we had no fatigue at all by the way of climbing. Tell him too that Mr. W. is very kind and he must let him (Mr. W) know we appreciate it, etc. etc.

F.A.W.



(celebration, seminary building, Carroll vs. Savanna  
1st difference in opinions with Board)

*Fragment  
Original  
in  
Savanna*

Cinda received a letter from our Janesville Conductor (Mr. Sax). He  
wished to be remembered to Mr. Nash!!

1853

Mt. Carroll, Carroll Co.

July 4th P.M.

Independence day!

Dear Sister,

Well we have attended a western celebration and got home again most  
tired to death. The performance came off at a grove about a half a mile out  
of town and we did not intend to go but when the time came, a carriage was sent  
for us and (being the only "covered carriage" in town) we could do no less than  
accept the proffered courtesy: but oh dear! such a crowd and jam as much worse  
than any camp meeting, and then I have got to be such a coward about riding that  
I took no comfort for fear of having my neck broken. The oration was fine, the  
dinner good, etc. etc. but you will learn all about it from tomorrow's Republican  
so I need to spend no time to tell the particulars. Cinda says we must go and  
make calls the rest of the day. Oh dear, I am sure I had rather be whipped, but  
we are in society and we must be of it, I suppose, but it's awful! Cinda is  
most getting the blues, she says tell Mrs. Nash, "I am going back to Milton."  
She is tired of public life.

Tuesday, 5th. Well, we made seven calls, received two letters, one is yours of  
the 28th, and a catalogue from G.H. Purdy. You are really getting very punctual  
in corresponding; I am glad to hear you have such an abundance of strawberries, it  
most makes me homesick. As to our boarding house, I think we will not be able to  
go into that at present for want of a building as none can be obtained, in fact  
there is none in the town anything large enough except the "Mansion House" which can  
not be had until spring: if we could only have our old house there on the hill,  
here-- but we must be patient: they are again agitating the subject of putting up  
Seminary buildings: they will put them up and then contrall the affair or they will  
give us a present of suitable grounds and we put them up, but that would not do,  
so we shall just let them take their own course and if they will pay us satisfactor-  
ily, we will teach, if not, why, there are other places in the world, and we can  
just pack our traps and start.

Wednesday, 13th. Well, I guess I'll finish this letter, if it's not outlawed.  
The truth is I have not had time. It's near the close of the quarter, we have new  
circulars to get out, calls to receive, committees for arranging circular, boarding  
house, etc. etc. to consult with, all of which take time; for example, Monday evening  
we thought to have for ourselves but were invited out to tea to meet the Methodist  
minister and lady (and some popular brothers and sister methodists) well we must o  
of course get the right side of that Sect for they are the most numerous. so we  
must needs go. Then last evening we were going to have to ourselves again, but  
immediately after school we were waited upon with a copy of resolutions from the  
Board of Trustees by a committee to make arrangements about the buildings, etc. and  
with a proposition from Rev. C. Gray relative to his enlarging his house for the  
purpose of a boarding house for the school and make him our Steward: well this  
business occupied us still bed time and most tired to death at that. Then this  
morning (the Board has gone out today to fix upon a location for our building) be-  
fore going they must needs interrupt us again and so it goes! oh dear it's so  
tiresome.

Our talking of Savanna has stirred them up at an small rate: (Isaac heard when here  
this was a great community for knowing every bodies business) well, they all knew



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ours, of course and they had found out that we were going to Savanna to open school and that the S- people had made us great offers of buildings, etc. if we would go! So consequently last week an interview was solicited, by the President of our Board to learn what our real intentions were, and at this interview we learned that some of our people and even one or two of the Trustees was quite displeased because we had not been more communicative, they thought we had been too reserved! in short, we had minded our own business (as Isaac told us to do!) and the gossips had not get hold of anything to talk about that we had said and so they went at it about what we had not said, or because we didn't say something! Well, I was too full to say much then, at the interview with Mr. Gray so I just held on till next day and I just sat down and gave them our say in black and white and filled nearly a sheet of paper and addressed to the President of the Board with the request that he should lay it before the Board -- well they called their meeting on Monday evening and the matter was freely discussed. I think from their returns to us, and the lesson we gave them will prove quite salutary, at least for a while. I don't know how longit will last.



7.5  
To encourage subscriptions Cinda & I have each taken \$50. stock and propose to put it head of a paper for ladies exclusively & rather think we will get a good many odd dollars that way, which may be applied to furnish the school building, etc. Perhaps we will invite Mrs. Nash to put in a few shares either in form of bank bills or let it be in a box of furniture for our building or something of the kind.

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Mount Carroll, July 24th 1853

Sunday P.M.

Dear Sister,

I have not been a very punctual correspondent of late, but you would not blame me, I am sure, if you knew how busy we are obliged to be, yet don't be alarmed and think we are going to get sick and all that sort of thing, for I can assure you there is no kind of danger, for what occupies us so busily is not exclusively labor, if it was there might be some danger, but as I have told you before it's a good deal of it receiving & returning calls which you know takes time, & then as often as once a week & some weeks two & three times we are invited out to tea & we make it a point never to refuse an invitation, let what will come, for you see every invitation we receive is a matter public conference (that is in the gossiping part of the community) & it would very soon be noticed if any partiality was used, yet with all our care they have raised a good deal of Jealousy and envy against Mr. Wilson & carried it to such lengths that we are scarcely at liberty to treat him with respect, at least not with the attention that we feel that he and his family have a right to expect from us -- I wish Isaac would write to him occasionally in a kind of gentlemanly, friendly manner, for, I certainly think there is not justice done to the man, for he does more for the advancement of education & finally I think for the improvement of the place in every respect (according to his means) than any other person here; but there is such a feeling of "who shall be greatest," that such an one is sure to catch the spikes; do not though say that we have said anything about it (when you write him) only that we seem to appreciate his kindness to us & that you as our friends, are grateful to him, etc. etc. PP The only fault I have to find with Mt. Carroll is the condition of society - so many of those eternal gossipers, yet it's no more than might be expected where there is such a mixed multitude & above all so many sorts of Christians! no less that fourteen different denominations, enough to curse any place!! - yet there are some sensible people here, who rise above this scandalizing propensity & scorn it much as we can & we have been so fortunate as to take such a course as to win the respect & I think the confidence of this part of the community, so I think we are on the sure side of the question. PP Mrs. Irvine is one of our best friends. Isaac recollects the portly old gentleman who preached at the court house that Sunday evening he was here) well, Mrs. Irvine I speak of, is his wife. She came from New York State some three years since, was the widow of a Presbyterian minister - taught a school here for a few months & married Mr. Irvine, (a rich old widower) now she purposes going on a visit to N.Y. & I want her to give you call, what say you, would you like to see her there? She is good, plain, sensible woman & if you would like to hear directly from us, you can just send her an invitation to call on you as she intends to visit Saratoga: she will be accompanied by here little girl, who is one of our scholars: they will be in N.Y. about the middle of October.

I have a good many things more to say but have not the time, or rather am not well enough as I have an attack of head ache which keeps me home from school & let that be my excuse for writing so badly and so disconnectedly.

Yours, etc.

Frank-



1453  
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Wednesday, August 3d

Here is this letter, nearly two weeks old! now I am going to finish it let what will come, so here goes--- I ought to copy it & begin back anew but you must excuse me for I have not the time - so just be content with a few brief extracts from my Journal, for that is the only means I have of keeping track of time or events. I will commence back to about the 20th of July as follows. Thursday received an invitation to Esqr. Harrises to tea - had a splendid supper, & Ice Cream, lemonade &c. to wind off with: & by the way, I am quite disappointed in the manner people live here - we expected to find poor cooks and all that sort of thing but of some twenty or thirty invitation to tea, dinner etc. which we have accepted we have found uniformly better table set than we find east, yet that's not saying I like them better than our eastern tables, but there is this about it, I am getting quite fleshy on it. ✓ ~~P~~ Friday - all our spare time occupied in making plans for the contemplated Seminary building. Saturday the Trustees have a meeting in the afternoon and could not decide on the choice of a location for the buildings so adjourned the meeting till Monday morning agreeing to leave the matter in a measure to our decision, accordingly deputizing a committee to wait upon us in the evening and invite us to go out on the several points with & when we were satisfied of the relative merits of the several locations to report the same to the Board. What time we had during the day, aside from receiving calls &c we were drove ins (?) making out reports of our scholars etc. ✓ ~~P~~ In the evening <sup>we</sup> were waited upon by the aforementioned committee, accepted the invitation, etc. though we felt quite reluctant to make our votes a matter of so much importance fearing we should insure the displeasure of some of the Trustees, Mr. Irvine especially as he was the most offish of any at the time, but it so happened Mrs. Irvine called upon us before the said finale meeting and we were so fortunate as to have her on our side and so of course, Mr. Irvine came around right. ✓ ~~P~~ Monday 25th. The gentlemen called with a carriage about 8 o'clock in the morning and we accompanied them out of town to view the several points in contemplation; out of six or eight we had a decided preference for the highest point directly south of the new methodist church one half mile from the



After school of this same day we were waited upon by another committee from the Board, wishing our assistance in perfecting a plan for the Buildings, as they wished to have a meeting on Wednesday following to make arrangements with mechanics, etc.-- Well, we spent the evening contriving and explaining our previous plan, etc. and satisfied them that we had done as well in the matter as they could do and as we had not time, on so short notice, to make a draft for their use it was given over to the mechanic, who accompanied them, "to draft and hand in to the Board in one day from that time" -- thus ended Monday 25th.

Tuesday 26th. Our quarter closed today and we invited the parents to come in in the afternoon to listen to our exercises not intending it for an examination or any thing of the kind. Quite a large number were present, among whom was a young lawyer lately from the east, who seemed quite pleased with the exercises; so much so that I think we may get a little puff! next week. You might look in the Editor's column for it !! It was late when we got home from school; found the architect employed to draft the building, waiting for us to assist him some more about the draft -



well we got it fixed out tolerably well, yet I am not satisfied with its being hurried together as it has, it seems as though more thought and study should be bestowed on an undertaking of so much importance and I fear there will be a great many things we shall wish different when it's too late to remedy them: the Basement I planned entirely myself and am tolerably well suited with it, for I think I know a little about conveniences about the Kitchen, dining room etc. I wish I had some of yours and Uncle Abram Nashes planing in this matter. Well, we have till Monday, August 1st to rest from our school, though it will be but very little rest from labor. W Wednesday 27th. The Board met again today, adopted our plan for Building, Surveyed the ground, completed the purchase, etc. We were very busy making out our bills, etc. also making some alterations in circulars and having some envelopes printed as you see accompanying this, etc. which plan pleased the Trustees so well that they had a quantity struck off for their private use so that now our card is being circulated by many of our most responsible citizens on their envelopes. In the evening a committee waited upon us to report progress and talk about effecting a loan to apply in the erection of the buildings before the subscription stock will come due; but I will explain this to Isaac as a separate matter by and by. Friday, 29th We received an invitation from Mrs. Halderman to accompany her out to Cherry Grove some ten miles in the country. We accepted, had a fine ride, a fine visit, etc. Did not return till Saturday evening completely tired out, etc. ---

W Sunday, 31st was very rainy so staid home and were glad we could have a day's rest and quiet! Monday August 1st commenced another quarter under very favorable circumstances. Perhaps you would like to know how we come out with regard to money matters during the time we have already taught. Well, we have not settled our bill with the Printer or Latin teacher, but after squaring up all accounts besides these two our expenses since we arrived in Mt. Carroll has equaled our total income, taking about ten dollars out of which we have yet to pay the printer and Latin teacher. Our receipts of money for the quarter past was \$130, but you see our expenses have been all together, that is for repairing room, and for tables, black Boards, chairs, etc. etc. which took off faster than it came in. But we are not discouraged - there is

Here  
1:40



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there is a better time coming and this thing must succeed, and be profitable I think, finally. If there is any surplus for a few months now I intend to give it all to Cinda. <sup>P</sup> The size of the building they purpose putting <sup>x</sup> up for the first (for they intend to add to it as they get means until they get buildings worth \$50,000) you will find in the Republican next week under the head of "notice <sup>ce</sup> to Contractors," etc. Messrs Haldermand and Wilson are both acquainted at Monticello and with the school buildings you spoke of in your letter to us when you first returned from the west. Mr. H. thinks it a splendid affair etc. Now then I come to the business part of my letter for Isaac's special attention. It is this. The Trustees wish to get a loan of about one thousand dollars either all in a lump or in quarterly instalments of \$250 each the first one being drawn about the first of September at the time the first payment is made on the building, to the contractor. You see as the stock is taken the money is not all paid down at one time but in instalments of so much per cent and as they can do much better with contractors to make better payments to them than they can by these per cent payments they had rather get a loan for a year at ten per cent than to get the work done so much on credit.

<sup>H</sup> Consequently they have through Mr. Wilson as Secretary of the Board applied to me for the said loan, well, now here is a fix: Mr. W. says he got the idea from you that if we needed pecuniary aid in this enterprise that you would back us: well, we have talked, you know, that we would like to put up a school of our own, so they very naturally suppose that we, (since we have given the matter over to them) would be willing to aid in the undertaking so far as to make them the required loan. They will make reliable security, the terms of which I will ask Mr. Wilson to give you in writing, as he can explain it better than I can. It seems as though there could be no sort of risk in the matter, but the trouble is about making the raise. If I had a thousand dollars in hand I would think it a good chance for investment, yet I don't feel like asking you to raise it for me, as you no doubt have as many ways for money as you wish to be troubled about, yet rather than have it understood that we as a firm: couldnot or would not make the loan, why I would think it better if we could consistently get a loan from some one you can, east, and pay over to them the full



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ten per cent, which would be better than they can loan their money there for. They have got over two, near three thousand, I believe, of the stock in the building taken, this will be given too, for security for one thousand etc. I wish you would write me immediately or as soon as you can tell what you could do for us in the matter. Mr. W. seems to have great confidence in your ability and willingness to give the requisite aid, though it is to be understood that it's from the Teachers.



(Fragment)

From a letter to Mrs. H. A. H. A.  
September 7, 1853.

AB  
this \$3000 they have stock subscription enough to cover, but cannot be collected under a year or so as it comes in by quarterly installments: this loan they use to finish the building and beautify the grounds. Now since they have concluded to furnish the building, get apparatus etc. themselves, they want another loan of a sum from \$1200 to \$2000. Now about the security, it is such that I should have no fear about, but perhaps I am not a proper judge. The responsible part of the Board propose to give their joint note and also a mortgage on the building etc. true it is already or rather the stock is mortgaged, but there is not a shadow of doubt but the subscription will be applied immediately to discharge that and then there is a clear security of a building and appurtenances valued at least \$6500 besides the note of such men as Messrs. Rinewalt, Halderman and Wilson. Rate per ct. 10 and time two, three, or four years as may suit the loaner. I have told the Trustees that I should look to you in the matter and abide your decision. You know we talked about building up a school of our own and they think I suppose that if we have anything we might risk as much as \$1000 in the enterprise now it is so fairly under way. I was writing to Mr. Thomas the other day and mentioned to him our want and enquired if he knew of any money the trustees might get etc. but gave him no particulars; should he enquire of you you can give him the security as I have stated it here. Perhaps your business men may see it to be not sufficient; yet it seems to me our trustees would not misrepresent it to us. I have told them I would write you on the subject and Esqr. Wilson is quite sanguine that you will do something for us; and they will defer further action till we hear from you and if need be still further, till you come out. We have engaged to make use of what we have by us to procure such materials as necessary to have the furnishing going on and take Messrs. R. H & W note for our security. I feel condemned every time I trouble you about money matters for I presume you have business of your own as much as you wish to be troubled with, but you know there is no one else I can look to and this seems the time I need what little aid I can have as much (as) I ever shall, indeed every thing depends upon how we commence operations in this building. We wish them on a liberal scale and such as will draw in the better class of scholars from abroad (from the cities around us etc.) Yet dear Sir do not hesitate to tell me just what you think and further do not give yourself trouble and embarrass yourself in any way for I certainly have no claims upon you or any right to expect you to do so and would be illy repaying you for all your kindness to me and worse repaying the gratitude I owe you. But enough of this! I hope the boys will have Greg in good plight when I get home as I shall have plenty of business for him. I shall bring out my harness when I return -- we shall be situated so as to have a horse kept when we get into the Seminary and it seems to me I can't stand it any longer without one. The Trustees are going to have necessary out buildings put up immediately and they design to keep a hired man all the time at work about the buildings, on the grounds, etc. etc. But you will so soon be here that I need not tell any more of our plans.



(Illinois mud  
1st "Lord's Supper"  
ideals and ambitions)

Mt. Carroll Seminary, Feb. 26th/54

Sabbath evening, 10 o'clock

Dear Sister,

You may wonder at my commencing a letter so late at night - I will explain - We are boarding at Mr. Irvine's and little Willie is quite sick and Cinda and I are sitting up with him. We came here a week ago yesterday - made the change for the sake of being nearer our school building, which is quite an item now the mud is bad. Cinda received Ann's letter last Monday - really sister, it was too bad we should have made you worry so about us, I might have known you would but didn't think about it as I ought to have done - I plead guilty - forgive us this time and we will try and do better in future.

We are well and have been - have lost but one day each from school since my return last fall, so you may know we have not been sick to prevent our writing.

Monday evening - I didn't make out much writing last night, I'll try again ---We are seated here in Mrs. Irvine's back parlor, with Mrs. I. and little Williw (who is most well tonight). Mr. Irvine has gone to Savanna. Emily is out in the dining room with the girl - Cinda is answering a letter from "Uncle James" - now can't you just imagine yourself seated here with us? Mrs. Irvine says you must not worry about us for she is going to try and be mother to us as near like Mrs. Nash as she can. She has lost her daughter who was afflicted; you probably noticed her death in the paper, her name was Clarice Seaman.

I suppose you have had a visit from "Uncle James" lately as he mentioned in his letter that he would be with you in a week or so. Our school flourishes well, though we expect a fallingoff when the mud gets a little deeper, for you know what a task it is to get through Illinois mud and we can't have any vacation to wait for it to dry up: only six weeks more and this Quarter closes and then only one Quarter more and we can take a rest of two months.!! what a luxury that will be, won't it'!

I hardly know how I can go east, there will be so much to be done here, finishing and furnishing the building, etc. - but then that's some time in the future. We shall have our Examination at the close of this present Quarter. It is near bed time and I have hardly commenced writing, but as the mail goes in the morning I must send what I have. One thing more, thought I must speak of; dear sister, we yesterday for the first time enjoyed the privilege of partaking of the "Lord's Supper," and what a blessed privilege it is too, to be associated with the people of God - we feel that we are really among friends - dear Sister do not worry about us any more, but when inclined to do so just remember that we have, (if not as dear earthly friends at hand as if we were with you) a "Friend who sticketh closer than a brother" and try and leave us in His hands. I have thought very much of you lately, about how lovely (lonely?) you are etc. and felt that I should more than ever before, enjoy your society, yet at the same time I feel more than ever, that this is a better place for us than east, not as regards gain in dollars and cents (for I know we are not getting rich here) but there is such an ample field for labor and now if I know my own heart, my desire is to do some good in the world and I do feel that I can be more useful here than in a more advanced society, that is we have more influence and our usefulness may be commensurate with our influence and God grant that we be enabled to exert it for good to all with whom we are associated. You know sister my whole ambition has ever been to do something smart, as I called it - to win honors in some shape, but I trust I have done with such ambition, my desire now is to honor my God in some way and my prayer to Him is that whatever I do may be done with an eye single to His glory. Pray for us dear sister that we may never have any other ambition. Ask Isaac to excuse me from writing to him this time for it's getting late. Cinda sends her love and talks about writing you and says she joins me in all I have written, so let it do as from us both.

Love to all, from

Frank



(measles, new housekeeper,  
charter, sister to visit)

Mt. Carroll Seminary  
Jan. 7th, 1854---

Dear Sister:-

*original  
fragment  
in measles  
envelope*

Yours of New Years day came to hand last evening - Thank you for your "happy New Year" and also for replying so promptly. We are all well, except the measles in our family; three of our boarders are down with them and several of our day scholars. - Of our family, numbering nearly forty, all but seven had had them before. Those who have them are getting along first rate and we hope to soon be rid of the disease.

Well, we have a new housekeeper, Mrs. Holcomb came a week ago yesterday. We like her much so far., think she is going to be the woman for us, yet scarcely dare breathe it lest we may be disappointed. One thing is I like her much for, that is, she is not so awful 'fraid of her dignity as the recent occupant is. For example Mrs. V. would not sleep in the basements, (and we offered her the pleasantest room in the house there) for fear she would be considered on of the help, as she presumed, they would sleep in the basement too, and she warrant she was not going to be "stuck down with the Irish and niggers" -- "She never was made a biddy before" - She didn't consider the kitchen her sphere" etc.etc.etc. On the other hand, Mrs. H - "Miss Wood, you are crowded for room, so just give us the basement bedroom and the girls (kitchen girls) can sleep there, and if needed one can sleep with me and my my little girl; and the boys can let their trunks stand there too if they wish, etc.etc." Well then Dave proposed getting a bunk made to put in one of the recitation rooms for him to sleep in and Mrs. H says "If it will accommodate any, put it in the kitchen and I will sleep in it." Now it seems something like, to have some one disposed to contrive and try to bear a portion of the managing and inconveniences with us rather than the consider the Institution a sort of public plunder house, where the one who can hog the most is the best fellow. We have too many such around us yet who instead of trying to get things along as saving as possible, just seem to think they have nothing to do but live on the fat of the land because it comes from Uncle Sam as it were;

Well now about your coming out here next summer - you don't say a word about it this time - Our affairs are taking a little different turn from what we anticipated when I wrote last - that is with regard to building next season. You will recollect that article in Republic entitled Democratic Education - well that was intended to prepare the way for a move to consolidate school district and Seminary interests - well a Petition is sent in to the Legislature from our people for an amendment of our Charter allowing the District, Town or County to take stock, raising a tax of 1/8 per ct. which will raise a fund of not less than \$6000 and mor probably of 36000 for ~~xxxxx~~ erection of Sem. buildings; There is but very little doubt of its passing hence it is proposed by some to defer any building till this is brought about and then get enough to drive the thing straight through. We have also petitioned to have our Sem. Fund limited at \$150,000 instead of 50,000 as it now is, as it is thought we will want to go over 50,000 before a great while. Now in all probability we will not get ready to build before one year from this spring, so you see we'll have no business east for furniture & you must come and spend the summer with us - be here during our vacation - how pleasant it would be; let Isaac travel around and do his business and you spend the summer visiting your sister and brother in Illinois. Can't you get Catharine McMartin to take charge of your house? I wish you would make some arrangement to free you from so much toil and confinement. it is too shameful - so there. I won't go home nor touch to till you will get in some shape to be more at



16  
(examinations, demand for teachers,

future of school, Savanna, Male dept.  
130 enrolled, new teachers, new church,  
Rev. Powell, Sarah Billings -later Mrs.Powell)

Mt. Carroll Seminary  
April 14/54

Dear Sister,

Your very welcome letter came to hand on Monday - you do deserve credit for your punctuality this time and I will follow your example. It's Friday evening - one week of our last quarter has already passed away - only ten weeks more and then!! but I dare not anticipate the future particularly when it seems so far in the future as ten weeks!! Well now I suppose you would like to know how our Examination passed off and how school opens this quarter, etc.etc. Well as to Examination, it did go off nicely, everything just right; the last day particularly we had a crowded house etc. The Teacher's convention which followed was well attended and of a good deal (of) interest: we (and Mr. Grattan) brought about just what we figured for, "viz." to have a committee connected with the Association and the interest of the Seminary for furnishing teachers, etc. I do think we shall have it in our power to do very much in the way of elevating the standard of education in our common schools, indeed a good beginning is already made, as you will see by reports of proceedings of the Association, in this week's Republican. Several of our young ladies who have been with us from our first opening school here are now going out as teachers and we are receiving applications formore than we can supply. I guess we will have to import some from New York State.

Saturday morning. Our building is progressing finely; the Trustees have effected a loan of \$1000 and will pledge their private property for any amount which may be needed so there seems no obstacle in the way of its speedy and sure completion; they are agitating the subject of what arrangement to make with us to ensure our stay stay here and so on. Some of the Board propose to give the whole concern into our hands to manage entirely ourselves. I think they will all agree to do so - but I don't know as I crave so great a responsibility, though I do think we could perhaps do better and effect more than by any other arrangement; it will be necessary for us to know or decide upon some course for the future before we go east so we will know what arrangements to make while there. I wish you and Isaac would put your heads together and give us a little advice in the matter; so far as gain is concerned we would do better to have a stated salary I think--- We received a proposition the other day from the leading man of Savanna to induce us to go there. It seems the S. people are (jealous of course of Mt.C) bound to get up something in the way of a Seminary and pitch upon that site of ours! on the hill (or bluff) as the place to locate it - Well, Mr. Bowen proposed "to pay a handsome sum on the land and donate \$1000 towards the building, etc." By the way will you say to Isaac that I think perhaps I better have that property made over to me, so it will be in my name and we can controll this matter a little--- They have a Rev. W.W.Harsha at Savanna who has been engaged in teaching at Hanover and has lately moved to S and they are counting on getting him enlisted there etc. but I think we will get the start of them in that too. Mr. H. will be here next Tuesday eve. to lecture on Temperance and I am going to put a plea in his ear; we want him to come to Mt. C. and open a male department in the building we now occupy in connection with the Seminary so that we need not have boys in the new building, etc. I guess it will work, for we can get the Trustees to second us in most anything that we think will be for the good of the institution.

Our school is more flourishing than ever; it has been before - have some thirty new ~~pupils~~ pupils this quarter making about 130 enrolled the present term.



17  
Miss Ransom continues with us - we have given up trying to get any more assistance but will do the best we can for this quarter, but when another term commences we must know what to depend upon - we shall want to get from the east, a good responsible go ahead "live" teacher to take charge of the Primary Department and a first class accomplished graduate of some popular Institution to take charge of the Music, Languages, Ornamental Branches in general - and then also a good responsible lady to take the place of "Matron" in the institution. Tell Aunt Chole I am going to write her with regard to the last named situation. I do wish she could be prevailed upon to come out here, I think she might do first rate here -- but I suppose you could not give your consent. Well, I don't want to be too selfish about it. I am going to coax Isaac to come out here too when he visits us --- what is the use of your staying way down east all alone - as for us, it seems a fixed fact that we can be more useful here than east, consequently ought we not to stay here? I must say I think you and Isaac might be too. we need such people here and you can't imagine how much good you might do whereas you are now just living and scrubbing along for self alone - no social interests, no community to improve for they all think themselves quite as good as you now, no religious interest to promote as there is enough without you there, etc. no relatives to be attached to, - finally - but then you know the finale, just as well as I can tell you and I don't suppose it will amount to anything anyway so I may as well save my lectures for a future generation.

Preparations for building our church are progressing rapidly. We expect to have it ready to go into the first of Oct. Several families have already arrived from Penn. to settle here and many more are on the way. I wish we could get up such a colony from New York state - some such families as the Thomas, G. Powell, etc. etc. could effect more real good here in one year both to themselves and the world than they will there in a lifetime - and then some such ladies as Sarah Billings, etc. I wonder if she can't be prevailed upon to come out here? Hannah Richards is at Rockford again. I think we shall call on her when we go east. Isaac better call when he comes out. Perhaps Miss M. Richards will be going east about the same time as I understand she intends going this season. I hope she will. If we could only get such a teacher as she is to take our Primary Department, I would like it. I wonder if S. Billings don't know of some one. But I guess you are tired of such scribbling as this so I may as well close --- Write soon when Isaac will be here, we want to get home before the 4th July if we can.---

Love to all

Frank

I have got a new Circular to make out for publication today (Saturday) so you must excuse my hast and poor writing.

Tell Mr. Thomas they must excuse me for not writing for I do not have time. I sit up nights till 11, 12 and even three o'clock in the morning to accomplish necessary writing, etc. and

I have go so I do not pretend to write a letter except to you and business letters. But sure and tell Mr. Thomas we are depending on Charles to come out here with us next September and shall be disappointed if he does not.

The young American", which you are now receiving is Edited by three of our pupils, "viz." two Rapps and R. Frohock.



1854

Mt. Carroll Seminary, May 1st

Monday evening

Dear Sister,

It is our mail day and I hoped to get a letter from home but am disappointed, but I presume you have some good reason, so I am not going to make myself very uncomfortable over it, only I hope you are not sick or anything.

I have nothing of importance to say, so I shall not of course take long to say it. We are well and prospering as usual - our school very full, hardly have room or time to run around - we talk of getting another assistant, a young lady who has recently come here from Penn. were going to secure her today, arose this morning intent on it, but the first thing I heard as I went down from my room, was of the death of her brother; poor girl, she is very much afflicted. It is not two weeks since she followed her mother to the grave. I very much hope circumstances will favor our securing her assistance, for she seems like such a noble girl. *(This was Catherine Miles sister of C.P. Miles she taught in the Sem. later - M. D. M.)*

This is the fourth week of our last quarter - only think! but seven weeks more after this and then we shall be bound for New York - how rapidly time flies! I can't realize that we have been one year in Mt. Carroll. The past year seems like a dream and rather a pleasant dream, too. What reason we have for gratitude - We have been blessed with perfect health - prospered in all our undertakings beyond our most sanguine expectations - Oh that my prayer may ever be for wisdom from above to direct all my ways, so that my time, my talent, my influence, my all may be devoted to the service of God.

We opened our Sabbath school yesterday for the first, as an independent school (Having been till now in "Union with the Presbyterian") We were very prosperous, having about sixty pupils in attendance which for the first day, we consider very encouraging and especially where the number exceeds what were in attendance of both denominations before the separation; the school is held in the Seminary rooms till our church is done which will be as soon as October; the foundation is already laid and work progressing. Our Seminary Building is going up rapidly; have the walls up to the second floor I think, no doubt about its being completed before September. Tell Mary I hope she will have our bed quilts done for us then--

I wish you was coming out with Isaac - we begin to anticipate the time when we shall see him here. I wish he would write us when he expects to come. Our term will close on the 23rd of June. We want to get home before the fourth of July if possible. I think of stopping in Rockford a little. Do you know ~~she~~ that was Ruth H. Thompson is and what her etc. or P. Office address is? Can you ascertain for me Mrs. Dr. Benham's P. Office address -- I have no more time to write now. Let me hear from you soon. Love to all and tell my friends, if I have any, to write to me, for I do think I am excusable from writing etc. Good bye with

love from Frak &

Cinda



19  
Mt. Carroll Seminary, May 28/54

Saturday evening

You are indebted to me for one letter, yet I am not going to be particular, as I have received yours since my last was mailed. We are considerably tired out as we have had school today, though it is Saturday and expect to have every day except Sundays, till our term closes - our object is to gain time as by so doing we will make out our term by the 17th of June whereas it would otherwise close the 23d then, with this arrangement we will have only four weeks more; this will be then about the time Isaac gets here according to the time you named in your last letter. I would like a day or two to rest and visit with him after school is out! before starting for the east. Our object in gaining time is that we may have a little longer vacation, as we will have a much to do, (as I will tell you soon) and too, to have a few days to stop in Naple, as Cina will then go on to Ballston with me, that is if you think this arrangement best: you see Cina thinks I must visit a little at her home, and I can't go any time better than when going down and then too, you will see her as soon as you do me - can you wait so long? or would you rather I would leave her at Naples? I know you will be there alone, and all that, but then we will be with you before the 4th of July - but this is a good way in the future, so I guess I'll not plan any more about it now, only you tell me just what you think about it. I hope Isaac will be here promptly by the middle of June, so we may not miss him. We are disappointed again in our Assistant, (Miss Miles) whom we hoped to get the rest of term; she has been sick every since I wrote you and is not able to leave her bed yet, so the probability is she will not be this term fit to go into school. The walls of our Seminary building are up and about ready to cover. The Trustees have had two or three meetings recently to devise plans for future operations and now for what we have to do, by way of recreation! during the coming vacation. We were waited upon by a committee from the Board of Trustees to know what course we wished to adopt, or rather (to be systematic) first to know "whether our services could be secured" etc. then how we preferred, etc. Well we chose a stated Salary, thinking to be released in a measure from the responsibility etc. Well, you will see how we succeeded in that - we have this evening seen the President of the Board who reports as follows upon their last meeting:

"Misses Wood and Gregory are duly appointed joint principals of the Mt. Carroll Seminary at a salary of \$300 each (tell Isaac not to scold here for they would give us more if we thought best to take it) and board and of course, also authorized us to procure such assistants as the wants of the school demand, and desired the very best of course and binding themselves to back us to any salary as high as \$600 per per to secure a teacher for Music and other accomplishments, of the first class: furthermore, we are to take the entire supervision of the furnishing of the building from Attic to Cellar, from Dormitories to school rooms, including apparatuses,, Pinano, etc.etc. and from Parlors to Dining Hall and Kitchen; we are also to make such disposition of the Boarding department as we think best; have a Stuard or get a Matron and servants such as and as many as may be needed, and still further, we are to use every effort in our power to secure a proper Principal for the mail Department which we wish continued in the building which we now occupy." This is the substance of Report of President etc. Now do you think we will have any too long vacation? It will be necessary for us to be back here some weeks before the school opens, to see to the furnishing. Now Sister, you know all about the fixtures for house keeping, so we count very much upon your aid in counsel, advice, etc. We



have thought of enlisting Isaac in bring out some things, but knowing his extreme aversion to baggage when traveling, I durst not mention the thing!! Prof. Stodards tenders his aid in procuring for us teachers: how we shall manage about domestics is more than I can tell, it's next to an impossibility to get help here for love or money: how I wish we could get two or three such girls as Catharine was - will you be on the alert for any chances of the kind for us. I have been thinking quite seriously about getting Mrs. Veeder: I received a letter from her some months ago, I don't know whether I mentioned it to you or not: she had learned for a certainty that her husband was dead, etc.etc. It came into my mind what a good opportunity it would be for her to educate her daughter, etc. if she would come here and be my assistant in the Boarding department, etc. What do you think about it? I wonder if she is a good cook, etc. Poor Colly (!) I am afraid she has a hard time; from Mrs. Veeder's account - how I wish she was a child one could love. I am glad you are getting on so well with your bed quilts, but ~~xxxx~~ I whink I will not be so ungenerous as to take them. We shall have some twenty five or thirty beds to furnish. Shall probably get the light part of the bedding east, as every thing is so high here. How is your Union Store prospering? Now I have a little business with Isaac, but first, what is the matter with him that he don't write any to us, what have we done or left undone - but then I can't wait for the answer but will write you what I have to say to him. You know we have talked a good deal about making the Trustees a loan, and they seem to be a little anxious; I think their object is to have us feel that our private interest is involved in the enterprise so that we will stand by them more faithfully etc. Well, they gave up getting any from us as we seemed to doubt the security and have got some three thousand of a gentleman here who was not so fearful of their security as school masters are!

We are both well and getting fleshy: ~~xxx~~ I in particular, am gaining. I think though if I could have a ride every day I should get along better still, if I don't make up lost time when I get home I shall wonder. I have not been into a carriage but once since I came from east. Now Sister, I wish you would write immediately and answer all my questions and tell me just when we may look for Isaac. etc. Cinda sends love as usual. Tell Mary her bed quilt will just come useful now. You say I may coax Isaac as much as I am a mind to, well I shall try - but will you second it. Now sister, it does seem too bad for us to be so far separated, yet could you think it my duty to return east and settle down in comparative uselessness. You must see the field for labor is greater here and that we can be far more useful here than east and so ~~xx~~ might you and Isaac and at the same time be just as comfortably situated with one tenth the capital invested that you have there, etc. But enough of this. Good bye sister, with love

from F. & Cinda

Can you tell me where Mrs. A. Ford is & her P.O. address



(School flourishing  
State supt. visits  
Plan for new wing)

Mt. Carroll Seminary

21  
November 10th, 1854

Friday morning

Dear Sister,

Cinda has written all of interest, I presume, now what shall I say? Well, I don't know where to begin - Frank is well and improving amazingly according to the Deac. (?) reports, for. I have but little time to see him - The same old story, no time, no time - What a busy world this is, but then I enjoy it better than a quiet life. I think we are very well situated. Our school never was more flourishing than at present. I presume you have noticed in the papers something of our State Superintendent's doings and also his compliment to our school. He visited us and then gave an address in the evening at the Court House. Well, we did not get ready in season, so the meeting waited one hour for the "Seminary ladies". Well, some dozen or more of us went and he of course could do no <sup>less</sup> ~~more~~ than compliment us. In his speech he said to the people that he had visited the N.Y. State Normal School and spoke in the highest terms of it and (his principal aim now is to establish one in Illinois) said to them "You are now reaping the fruits of it in your own community as I must say you have here the very best school I have had the pleasure of visiting in the State of Illinois." Hon. Washburn also visited us on the same day and was highly pleased, indeed the school, the building, the furniture, and arrangement of it, excites universal admiration. Mr. Edwards (State Supt.) has a plan in progress by which he expects to get at least \$60,000 to appropriate to a Normal School and branch N. Schools in Illinois and he being a Normal man to the core and so well pleased with us here, we have hopes that we may get an appropriation of some \$10,000 here. Our people are agitating the subject of another building the coming season but I think they will hardly get it. Our plan proposed to Trustees is to extend a wing 25ft. by 100 ft to the east and on the end another square building for the boys, etc. This is an original plan with us and on naming it first to the Board, his honor, Wilson, opposed it strongly and we supposed it would of course go by the board, but not long after, a gentleman (who came with a young lady to school from Minnesota) was talking with Wilson about our future prospects and his honor showed a draft of the building in prospect just exactly as we had proposed. Wilson tells Prof.!! Terrell that he is the Principal of Mt. Carroll Seminary and that when the building for boys is up here on the Seminary grounds that he will control the whole concern. Well, I guess he will have but one more to control when he gets to Principaling it over us---!!! That shows how much of a man Esqr. Wilson is. I wish I did like him better but the more I see of him the less I respect him.

But Cinda says I must get ready for school, so good bye and write often won't you.

Love to all from  
Frank

P.S. Tell Bridget to take good care of Mrs. Nash and keep her from work and getting sick.



Date? 22

(Fragment of a letter to Mrs. Nash)

Have you any hopes of money being secured at the east at a less percentage than we are paying? I don't see how we are going to get through with our liabilities for even the present year - we have payments coming due during the next three months amounting to some \$1500. True Rinewalt and Halderman stand ready to back us but it is a little grinding to be under the necessity of riding a free horse to death. I get the blues over it sometimes and I am most determined to give up and call it a failure and were it not for the present flattering prospects of a Road I believe I should. Then again on the other hand we have every reason for encouragement. Our school is flourishing and popular and increasing constantly -- but it costs everything to carry it on so there it is -- pecuniarily, no hope of anything better.

But I must stop writing so or you may conclude I have a little touch of the blues now.

We are just getting our buildings insured -- put them in including furniture etc. at \$5400 -- costs us from 30 to 50 dollars per year, but it seems necessary to have them thus secured if we expect to get a loan upon them etc.

Our examination comes off now in about five weeks. I wish you could be here then. We have some first rate classes, can't be beat in every school I can assure you, not even at the east. Tell David our young ladies have mastered that terrible Algebra that Terrel thought us presumptuous in introducing into our department as "no young lady ever had or ever could go through it"! Well, Miss Shotwell has taken the ladies through it and that without any help from the masculine gender either. We have on class in the last (9th) book of Geometry. - a fine class in Book keeping, two or three classes in higher Algebra, two in Geometry, two in Chemistry, two in Philosophy and besides numerous classes in Elementary Algebra, Rhetoric, Arithmetic, Grammar, Physiology, etc. etc. etc. a fine class in Latin and Greek, etc. a good painting class and the best kind of an interest pervading them all. We hope to secure a music teacher before examination so as to have some music to vary the exercises with. We have a fine class in Elocution too. In short I think we have a right to brag some and feels a "leetle" proud of our family. Of our boarders we have not a rough one in the lot. How I wish you could step in and see us all together. Our dining room is just cramed. Will Isaac please to join Caroline in answering this.

Your sister,

Frank



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Mt. Carroll Seminary

December 25th, 1854

Dear Sister,

Yours of Nov. 25th was received just as I had mailed one to you, consequently I thought I would wait a little before answering it. We are well, but oh, so very busy we don't know which way to turn. Well now to answer your inquiries-- 1st about our domestic dept. Mrs. V. is here yet but just going every day; is waiting for money from Mrs. Smith. We have engaged Mrs. Holcomb to take her place; is coming next week if we wish her to, so you see a way is provided for us; I guess she will do pretty well. The weather has been very pleasant here; no snow to remain on and no mud; the roads, till yesterday, just as good as in June. As for pumpkin pies, we don't have milk enough for that, but buckwheat cakes are plenty. As to the apples, I wish you would send us a lot. We have paid 1.75 per bushel for apples no better than we used to make cider of at home. We bought two barrels at Chicago - don't know the cost of them as Mr. Rinewalt paid for them. Well, Esqr. Wilson is terrible good all at once and terribly interested in the school, etc. He spent yesterday, the whole forenoon here with us planing another building, or rather trying to, for all he could say or suggest was merely a repetition of a suggestion we made to him on the subject when we first returned in the fall and on which he expressed his decided disapproval of, but now he adopts it and more than that claims it as original, and now I have changed my mind and must get him on another track. Well, when he gets any more plans from me it will be in a shape he can't steal the originality of it. The board have a meeting for the new election of Trustees and then a plan is to be presented for a building made-to have and move made to have it completed by next October. Now you see we have got to go about it and get up this plan during the week; Grattan is agitating the subject of joining the District school with Sem. etc. as you will see under the head of "Democratic Education", the proof sheet of which we have before us; You may not see the policy in it, but to one knowing the object in view, it shows up a good degree of knowledge of human nature and sucker nature in particular. If G. makes the card work, we will add to our Sem. fund some \$5000 and do away with any competition in the district school and at the same time be far better for the district school.

Now as to furnishing this new building, I don't know. They seem pleased with what we did, but can't tell to a certainty till they have seen our book, as they are not at all aware that we have advanced so much as did do. Well, they went to Chicago and paid \$8.00 a piece for bedsteads - let them compare that with our prices for furniture. Well, further than this. I thought when I returned last fall and found how they had fooled with things in putting up the building, that if it was to be done over, I would not be caught out of sight of the building while it was being built. Well then we can't be in two places at the same time---consequently if we are required to get the furniture we can make but flying visits east hence you see to have any time with you you must come here, then I can visit and see to things here too and then if needs be we can go east with you, get the furniture and back immediately. But we shall get out of the scrape if possible. Let the Trustees or some other principle do it this time. I think we shall plan a building 120 ft. by 30 to extend from the N.E. corner of present building on east 120 ft. then on the end of this wing will be another building the same as this one now. I think Isaac can form some idea of it as he has seen the present one. This new building I think we will put five stories high, then a balustrade raised on the part fronting the town; then the appearance from that direction will be the long one as the main building and the present one as the west wing and another corresponding to it on the east. We have a family of 35 increasing and changing all the time. All goes on smoothly I believe - our school numbers in the two Depts. nearly 180. The Female Dept. is largest and but few primary scholars. We have here in our building employed



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as teachers and assistant teachers, nine besides Prof. Hydor and two in the Mail Dept. making twelve in all. In music we have 14 pupils - will have to order another Piano soon. Mr. Terrel does not succeed in getting the confidence of the Trustees as he ought to for the good of our Institution, is rather a clog than otherwise, yet we stir him up with a long pole occasionally. All his ideas seem to be to be regarded as Principle, his mind is so small that honor and money is all it can hold and has no idea of acquiring either by true worth or merit - but yet I hope he will get westernized soon.

The lumber is on the ground for our stable after so long a time. Frank stands in Mr. N. Halderman's stable. He is well and fine as silk - just as pretty as can be. I wish you could see him. Well you will next summer, won't you? I do wish we had Toby or a Toby - how nice he would look and then Prof. H. could teach him music; I think he could finger the keys well. Tell me all about your school teacher in Milton and also in upper Tondorn and R. City etc. As to girls for help - send them on if you can get good ones O it's too far to transport poor help the we can't get much other here. We pay our washer and ironer \$2.00 per week, though she assists about other work when needed. Our kitchen girl \$1.50 per week and board and tuition to a third for sweeping etc. and a boy his board and tuition for cutting wood and building fires etc. The last two weeks we have been having a course of lectures on Physiology and Phrenology before the school by Dr. Burrows. They have been very interesting, though like everything else, it has and still has strong opposition. Some of our patrons kept their children home the first day he lectured, but it didn't change our course so the next day they sent them on with change to pay towards defraying the expense which was \$30.00 for the course. We proposed it to Mr. Terrel to have then and for his Dept. to join ours and meet in our school room, he with some reluctance consented. The Dr. examined our heads - we will send you the chart, or rather both of our charts on one book - where F is means me and where C is means Cinda. He made Cinda out an every day, practical woman, - he said I possessed a "brain tough as a hickory wood. I had a larger and more powerful brain than the majority of men and more power if circumstances should call it out than even my most intimate acquaintances had any idea of" - that I carried everything before me - never knew fatigue nor failure - that in an accident or breakdown I could tell what to do better than two-thirds of the men. He marked me the largest number they ever mark in size of brain, namely, 7. Finally the inference that might have been drawn was that I was cut out for a man! not so very flattering either I don't think.

Oh, I wish you merry Christmas - we have no school today - we're going to have a party this evening but the people down town got jealous about the invitations and so as we could not invite everybody we concluded to withdraw the invitation and have nobody. We however before this was talked of recd. a Christmas present of four fine turkeys from Mr. and Mrs. N. Halderman which we are going to have for dinner today - wish you could just step in at 3 o'clock and help carve them. Well, here is the long table holding our little family and Cinda and I seated at the middle, one one side and the other opposite and we do all the serving of table, carving, drawing tea and coffee etc.etc. Don't you think we earn our grub? Our tea and coffee urns are very hand though as all we have to do is just turn a little fasset and hold the cup under - we have no complaint yet of starving our young ladies.

Since the Physiology lectures they got up a pledge among themselves to abstain from the use of tea and coffee, so now we have but about a dozen who use it at all. I should have written Mr. Thomas ere this, I am ashamed; but really I do not have time.



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Here are no less than eight great account books standing in my writing desk in solemn array right before me waiting with impatience my attention. They must be posted and ready to submit to the board next Monday at their election. Our bills of last quarter are scarcely strait and next week I must commence making bills for this quarter and so it goes - as soon as I am out of school I have to go to the library (where by the way you will find us any time you call out of school hours) and seat myself at desk, pen in hand till midnight and not infrequently writing from 5 to 10 letters besides accounts, bills, etc. etc. in one evening. - the letters however remember are anything but complimentary ones. Our book trade makes us some labor - we have already this term used over \$300 worth etc. etc. etc. etc. etc. etc. etc. etc.

The mail is waiting so I must hurry. Cinda is regulating things this morning; sends a bunch of love, etc. etc. etc. etc.

David is down town to see G /..... Charles is well - we do not claim much assistance in anything from him as he has fears of getting out of his sphere but never mind, I shall try and do my duty to him and make a man of him yet - he has improved 100 percent already; I hope to make a solid if not brilliant scholar of him - all our aim now is to see how much we can get him to accomplish for himself and trust to fortune whether we ever get any returns for it or not.

Good bye with love from Frank

Now for drafting a building - so good bye - Write soon.



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(dried apples; income \$900 per quarter;  
Savanna; 2 pigs; copy press; barn; exams.)

Mt. Carroll Seminary  
January 20th, 1855.

Dear Sister: -

I believe I am not indebted to you for letters, but as it is too tedious to go out to church, I seat myself to write you. I flatter myself I am getting to be a very punctual correspondent, but I fear as I improve you will fall into your old habits of delinquency - now let me give you warning: If you do I shall just so sure keep closed desk too. Well, I presume you are wondering if we have cold weather out here on the Prairies. - this is the first eastern winter day we have had this season - now it is snowing and the wind blowing from N.E. a perfect gale - the snow has been falling the last eight hours and the ground is not yet covered; it has traveled on to the Mississippi I presume. We have not had snow enough to run a sleigh yet, indeed the ground is dry as summer almost. We have not received those dried apples yet, hope you have sent them for we are very much in want of them and think we can better afford to buy them of you than in Chicago, even allowing the transportation to equal that of the soap by express, viz. 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  cts. per pound, that is, unless apples are very much higher than they used to be when I was in the trade east, will not equal what we pay here and then have them to core besides, thus wasting a third of them. You will send the barrel you mentioned and be looking out for some more good nice ones, and on receiving yours, if we are not too much disappointed in the expense will order more.

Our school moves on as usual. I have been engaged the last week in making out bills; have got them done, except some book bills. The bills for our department alone amount to over Nine hundred dollars for one quarter, but then come to take out the salaries of nine teachers, and assistants, there is a slim chance for a dividend. Tomorrow is the pay day, and as the President has appointed me Book-keeper and Treasurer to the Institution, I shall be obliged to be out of school this week too. I am sorry, as it makes it very hard for Cinda.

Our barn is nearly built; will be completed this week. David has had the control entire of it with repeated injunctions to have it just as he wished for a model barn and stable, so that he could not have it to say "if I could have had my way" etc. but after all there is somebody to blame, "the plaguey mechanics won't do as I tell them" - so whatever is wrong here is no way in fault as usual!

The good people at Savanna are very much exasperated with Mt. Carroll about the Petition sent to Springfield relative to our school interest, and consequently have sent in a remonstrance. Grattan is now at Springfield laboring for it - that is the passage of our Bill - hope he will succeed. You have decided to visit us next summer, I hope. We have concluded to have no vacation in the spring. Our present quarter will close Feb. 27th and next commence March 1st. I will now leave a page for Cinda.

From

Frank

Wednesday, Jan. 24th

My dear Mrs. Nash,

Frank has left a page for me but has told all the news I suppose. No, she has not, we have an addition to our family today, and you will laugh when I tell you what it is. Why, Franky is in his new stable for the first time tonight, and would you believe it, we have got a new pig pen and two pigs in it. So we are gradually extending our borders, and our Seminary building is no longer an isolated



thing, but is being surrounded by neighbors; even pigs are better than nothing. It seems quite natural to hear a pig squeal. You know we are away out on the Prairie, away from the din and bustle of town life. But enough of Pigology.

Our family are all well excepting colds; have recovered from the measles. Mrs. V. is here yet, she is sewing for Frank. I know not when she intends to start East, not before Spring I guess. Mrs. Holcomb does well, every thing is jiggling along comfortably as far as we know. Have 98 pupils enrolled, but only about 81 or 82 in regular attendance. Mr. Terrel has about the same I believe. You are coming West next summer are you not? (There, Frank is whimpering for the first time. He is lonesome, I guess.) We will be all ready to visit if nothing happens. I have not heard from Ann or from home in a long time. My love to Mr. Nash and all. Excuse the bad appearance of the page. My pen has fallen twice.

Yours with love,

Cinderella

(No longer backhand, but a veritable scrawl)  
L.E.E.

Thursday morning, Jan. 25th

Dear Sister: I have just been out to our new barn for the first time. I suppose you are quite surprised at that. Well I told you I left it all to Dave. I had heard him brag so much about building barns, stables, etc.etc. that I presumed he would get up a perfect model barn and stable. Well, the result. I am more than ever satisfied that no man can do a thing alone. They lack adaptability, etc.etc. But Cinda says, "Say nothing rashly." So I'll stop, perhaps when I get the hang of the barn I will like it better. There is no use saying anything to Dave for then the poor Mechanic has to catch it!!

I am going to send to Newton at the Union to send us a supply of notions. Give him a hint that he better do pretty well by us if he expects a continuation of our patronage. Our quarter closes the 27th Feb. with an Examination, the last day of which will be in the church and the two Departments together and then the next evening a party (we think). Won't you attend? Tackets, 50¢ - fund will be used for some improvement on the building or grounds, such as fencing or getting a bell. I was waited upon yesterday by a committee (from Savanna) who was appointed to see if a portion of the property in S. could be had to put school building upon; they first proposed buying some of it, then that we should donate a portion as the erecting of such a building upon it would so much enhance the value of the surrounding land etc.etc.etc.!!! Messrs. Bowen and Harshe were on the Committee. Mr. B. proposes to give as much adjoining as might be donated from that, etc. Wonder if they don't think us all green. !!!!! I'll close I think. believe I'll not copy this page into my letter book. My new copying Press cost \$12.50 -

F.A.W.

Mrs. Nash - Frank has got a new Copying Press and that is why she has taken unusual pains with her letter as she wished it to make a good appearance in the Book and I am sorry I have disfigured it so. You must excuse me, wont you?

Cinderella

P.S. I mailed the money to Newton for that Soap. Wont you inquire if he receives it and get a receipt of him for it and lay it up for me. F.A.W.



A very fine looking gentleman drove up to the Seminary, inquired for Principals. I presented myself: he inquired for rooms for a scholar: I showed him such as were not engaged - Well he seemed very inquisitive and observing etc.etc. but finally seemed very much pleased and laid his plan before me: "viz." he with his wife had been to California, returned a year ago, but now his business called him back to C. and he wishes to leave Mrs. Shaw (whose early advantages had been very limited) where she would be pleasantly situated and at the same time improving herself: he would be absent one year, perhaps longer - had two children older 2 years and four months, younger one an infant; well now this was rather a novel position for me, yet I could not say no, indeed I did not wish to for there was something so sensible in the man's views, etc. that I felt strongly disposed to accommodate him if possible but now the trouble was that such rooms as were vacant were not suitable for a lady with children; well, we in order to have time to digest the subject referred him to Trustees, etc. well we sent down to the President, he vetoed the plan and there it stood. We could not very well give her room without giving up the Library and the President had all at once such an interest in our convenience that "we must not make such a sacrifice." The trouble with President was; it was something so strange for a married lady to go to school!! there must be something wrong. Well Mr. Shaw was not a man to be thrown off the track by trifles: he was pleased with the reputation of the school and with us and he had been to considerable expense to gether with his family and was not going to give it up so! Mr. S. just goes down to Rinewalt & Halderman and purchases  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of choice lots (six) at the rate of \$1000 per acre immediately adjoining our Seminary ground; goes to our Nursery man (Mr. Long) and gives an order for improving said grounds and now says he, "gentlemen I will have a building up and ready for my family in three months and the advantages of that school she shall have." But while this was in progress; the Pres. by some means got a clue to the immense fortune Mr. S. possessed! and further that he was to leave that week for C. and that his operation here must be carried on by Agents and funds must be deposited and perhaps he might be the fortunate individual lawyer in the case! and finally the matter was worth his inquiring into and he would just puff! down to the "Mansion House" where they were putting up and see about it! Well, he very happily makes a remarkable discovery. "the lady (Mrs. S) he had known for ten years!!" why "of course all was right" and he would pledge his best influence to get her accommodated just as she wished." Well, Mr. S. did not wait for a conclusion of his blarney but left him with his wife and came up to tell us of the remarkable discovery! of the Pres. and that he would not oppose the matter further, so none of us were going to wait his powerful influence to be brought bear. So before he got up on "Sem. hill" the room was engaged. (two of our young ladies volunteering to vacate the pleasantest room in the house for Mrs. S.) well they came: Mr. S. left next day for C. we are well pleased with her so far: she studies Arithmetic, Physiology and Book-keeping and Piano music. She keeps a nurse for her children so one room which accommodated before two young ladies, now pays the same as three; true there are inconveniences to us, having children in the house yet we can put up with it, for we think it will be for the best in the end--- Mr. S. now contemplates making this his permanent place of residence and if so will be, I think, quite an acquisition to our community and town, etc. Mrs. S. has written for two of her sisters to come and attend school. Don't know yet whether they will or not, etc.etc. Now ain't I getting to be "quite a gossip!!" My bird visitor is talking Spanish now. she says "pretty Lauretta" and then tells her story in Spanish -- there now she is asking for a cracker -- now imitating a cat -- now an old hen -- I don't know what will come next -- there now she is singing for the baby. I wish you could just step in awhile.

If it is necessary for David to be at your house to insure your coming west, we will send him home by Express; but if not we have a plan in contemplation to open a Book Store and put him in charge of it. You see our book trade is no small item; we order bills every week or two in amount from \$20 to \$80. We supply our own schools



and all in town and several in the adjoining country. Now a Book store is needed for the good of the town and yet one can't be sustained without the patronage of the schools and we won't give up that of course, so there it is -- Yet as I said before we will not use any inducement to keep D here is your coming west, in any way depends on his presence east. -- We have an offer of from \$500 to \$1,000 worth of books for a stock to open with, etc. etc. yet we can manage the thing here in the shape of circulating library etc.etc. and let David go and then he don't care about going into the business here so we will let that drop for the present and if he can be of any use to you we will send him home right away. -- We have beautiful weather here now. Time for improvements to be in progress -- Well we are trying to start things - have paid out nearly \$50 this winter for hauling water; now since this property has come into our hands we have made contract for a well to be dug. The grounds are not yet inclosed - have today ordered lumber for that purpose. Have paid all winter \$.04 per quart for milk, using 6 to 10 quarts per day and now they thing to get it of us during the summer -- but it's no go -- we have struck today for a cow. Tonight after school Mxx we went out to hunt a girl for a nurse to take charge of Mrs! Shaw's children; found one. Yesterday we got a new girl to do our washing and ironing. She is Scotch. Some like Catharine. Franky is well and just as nice as any horse this side of a certain stable in old Milton, Saratoga co. N.Y.

April 4th Well I rather think this letter outlawed, yet I will venture to send it as really I have not time to copy it. Oh such lovely weather; and the traveling couldn't be beat, roads as smooth as a floor. Things are moving --- I have had an interview with Mr. Rinewalt this morning about our plans here for the future and he proposed a meeting of board tomorrow night and wanted us before that time to have in form a plan we are getting up for raising funds to go on with buildings. here and so I have spent the day in writing it out -- it is entirely original -- pleased R very much - 'tis by scholarships etc. haven't time to go into details. Mr. R. says to us as he was about to leave (after asking his advice relative to certain immediate improvements on the premises) "Ladies, go on with them just as you see they are needed and rest assured if you get in a tight place, we stand ready to back you." -- "What you plan for future operations, make it sure that it's going to turn up in that shape that you will be benefitted"---

The deed is given us without any incumbrance; (there was a mortgage on it, but R and Halderman stand in place of it" and R & Halderman take out individual notes for \$2,500 so you see we have a chance to get money on the property to pay them which will be better than paying ten per ct.

April 6 - Well, we had a meeting of Trustees last night -- but little accomplished, as usual, so I am not going to wait any longer to mail this. Let me hear from you soon. I want to write to Mr. Thomas soon but may not have the time so if you have a convenient opportunity you may tell him of the arrangements we have entered into and also of the incumbrance upon us and consequently the necessity which may exist for us to retrench our expenses. Our fund may not not be such as to make it in our power to do by Charles as we would wish to without involving ourselves more than we can get through with.

Now sister remember if your coming west in any way depends upon Davids going home we will send him at once -- I must close, so good by

from Frank

P.S. Mr. Terrel is coming up tonight to see if we will not employ him the remainder of the year here in Seminary!! I reckon! Well, we will see



30

Mt. C. Seminary

Jan. 16th, 1856

Dear Sister:--

The long looked for goods are received, safe and sound - how shall we thank you for them. We have scarcely had time to look at them, but are well pleased so far. The sugar particularly is very nice. As to bill of transportation it exceeded anything of the kind we have had before. It is \$25.28 to Freeport and \$2.00 from F. to Mt. Carroll. I have written to the Forwarding house at F. making inquiries about it. Notwithstanding the bill of Freight, it is better than to buy here. for example the sugar costs us, delivered, the same as we pay here for the common brown Sugar.

We have a dressmaker come tomorrow to make our dresses etc.

And the fruit is just as nice as it can be. Such high living as we have ain't to be beat. By the way will you tell me how you make mince pies out of dried apples. Mrs. Spicer says she never had any luck and don't like to try and consequently we pay \$2.00 per bush. for green apples for mince pies. I wish you could all step in and take tea with us now we have good butter and first rate bread and some nice Sauce, etc. etc.

You forgot to send your bill. We paid 17 cts. per lb. for dried peaches by the quantity in Chicago and they retail at 27 cts. per lb. and they don't begin to be as nice as your apples so you can estimate their value to us. Our school is a perfect jam; nearly 40 in the family, all paying boarders but four besides ourselves; best paying family we have ever had. We think of putting off our examination two or three weeks longer than we expected. We have not got a music teacher yet - don't know when we shall - don't have any luck. We are - have perfect health in our family and have had all the term. don't have even an attack of home sickness - indeed I often wonder at it that among so many there is not occasionally an attack of sickness of some kind. We ought truly to be thankful for were it otherwise and the amount of labor on our hands that we have, I don't know how we would get along. Mrs. Holcomb is still at Bailey settlement waiting to hear from her husband. I think when she sees California I shall.

It's bed time and Cinda is teasing me to retire, so I must close for this time.

Good bye from

Your sister Frank



Wednesday morn, May 21st, 1856

Dear Sister and brother,

You will learn all the news from D's letter. About going home - I don't know what to say - we want to see you all, we want the change, the recreation, etc. yet we can't afford it, not the traveling expenses alone, but the loss of time and loss to things at home here which must necessarily happen if we are away - true there are some things we might do by going east that would be an object pecuniarily, such as securing help, perhaps, etc. yet that is too uncertain; finally on the whole I think we will leave it for you to say whether we go east or not and just as you think will be best, we will do - but remember, we want to see you and shall expect you here during the summer if we do not go east.

I feel very anxious to get in a shape to settle with Messrs. Rinewalt and Halder- they have sent in a bill of our account with them which amts. together with the note due them, (the first of April past) to about \$1000. They expect to have it by the first of July. Now I rather give up the whole concern here than put you to any trouble or sacrifice to yourselves, to help us; though you have so kindly offered to do it, you must not if it is in any way going to embarrass you in your own improvements, etc.

Though any aid you can conveniently give us will be received with deepest gratitude yet I want you to know we are not so selfish as to willingly receive such aid at the expense of your own comfort and convenience. Do remember that our first anxiety is to see you both so situated that you can enjoy life without so many of its cares and if you were to aid us and then we see you still bound down with care and labor as we ever have found you then that aid will only be a source of remorse and regret to us.

I say that R & H expect it settled by first of July - do not understand me that it is because they are disposed to hurry the matter, it is because of what you said to them when here giving them to understand that it would be convenient then and hence have sent in their bill that we may know what we have to meet. I think R & H are none the less our friends than formerly and none the less willing to stand by us, yet engaged as they are, the money no doubt would be worth a great deal more to them in their business than at the interest they receive, etc.etc. as they have done so much for us it seems no more than right that they should have it. As regards the money for which they are security for us, of course we do not feel so much anxiety about, though we feel that if we could save the difference between 10 and 07 per cent that it would be well to do so. I must close. Please write immediately.

Your sister,

Frank

& Cinda



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Mt. C. Seminary July 1st, '56

Dear Sister:-

We have been looking and expecting a letter from you till we have become very much concerned about you. Isaac arrived here a week ago last Saturday (21st ult.) he expected to find a letter here from you either to him or us - was very much disappointed - stayed a day longer in hopes of getting one etc. Isaac said you was not well when he left home which ~~mmm~~ makes us more uneasy about you. Now dear Sister, I am going to begin to scold you. I have lectured Isaac enough. He seems to be doing all he can to have things so you need not work so much and yet he says you will work and over work. Now why will you do so. Can't anything be said or done to prevent it? I suppose you feel that you can't trust your work to any one else and that though it is but little it's too much for you. Now there are persons in the world that would be so glad of such a home as you could give a good housekeeper and who would be just what you want - why can't they be found? If one aint enough why have two - only have it so you wont have to work so. I know work can be got along with by hired help. Suppose it is not quite so economical, why what of it? Now do try for the sake of your friends to take care of your health. I suppose we will go home when school closes, but don't anticipate it too much for there are so many possibilities and almost probabilities for disappointment that we scarcely dare to think about. Our school closes the 18th of July but we can not get (away) under a week or two so I can't tell you yet when to look for us. I think Cinda will go to your house with me first before she visits Naples, as it will save her so much Stage riding etc. We are well, or rather I am, but Cinda is pretty well tired out. She must have rest. I feel better than I have done before, since we bought this property for the reason that our business does not torment me as it did. As you know, Isaac let us have \$1000 to pay up Messrs. R & Gladden which relieves me of a great load of anxiety - How very kind it is in him to help us and I can assure you we appreciate it, too, but one thing do not let him do that is to any way discommode yourselves or trammel yourselves to help us for I would rather our whole concern here be sold for our debts that that you should suffer the least inconvenience from it. Now do take care of yourselves, wont you.

Mr. Rinewalt arrived in town last evening, just from the East.

I have a plan for getting housekeepers which I hope will be successful, but I can't write more this morning.

Isaac left here a week ago today for Debuque intended to be in Peoria over Sunday, presume you will see him home soon after you get this.

In haste your sister,

Frank

Love from Cinda too, of course.



A very fine looking gentleman drove up to the Seminary, inquired for Principals. I presented myself: he inquired for rooms for a scholar: I showed him such as were not engaged - Well he seemed very inquisitive and observing etc.etc. but finally seemed very much pleased and laid his plan before me: "viz." he with his wife had been to California, returned a year ago, but now his business called him back to C. and he wishes to leave Mrs. Shaw (whose early advantages had been very limited) where she would be pleasantly situated and at the same time improving herself: he would be absent one year, perhaps longer - had two children older 2 years and four months, younger one an infant; well now this was rather a novel position for me, yet I could not say no, indeed I did not wish to for there was something so sensible in the man's views, etc. that I felt strongly disposed to accommodate him if possible but now the trouble was that such rooms as were vacant were not suitable for a lady with children; well, we in order to have time to digest the subject referred him to Trustees, etc. well we sent down to the President, he vetoed the plan and there it stood. We could not very well give her room without giving up the Library and the President had all at once such an interest in our convenience that "we must not make such a sacrifice." The trouble with President was; it was something so strange for a married lady to go to school!! there must be something wrong. Well Mr. Shaw was not a man to be thrown off the track by trifles: he was pleased with the reputation of the school and with us and he had been to considerable expense to gether with his family and was not going to give it up so! Mr. S. just goes down to Rinewalt & Halckman and purchases  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of choice lots (six) at the rate of \$1000 per acre immediately adjoining our Seminary ground; goes to our Nursery man (Mr. Long) and gives an order for improving said grounds and now says he, "gentlemen I will have a building up and ready for my family in three months and the advantages of that school she shall have." But while this was in progress; the Pres. by some means got a clue to the immense fortune Mr. S. possessed!! and further that he was to leave that week for C. and that his operation here must be carried on by Agents and funds must be deposited and perhaps he might be the fortunate individual lawyer in the case! and finally the matter was worth his inquiring into and he would just puff! down to the "Mansion House" where they were putting up and see about it! Well, he very happily makes a remarkable discovery, "the lady (Mrs. S) he had known for ten years!!" why "of course all was right" and he would pledge his best influence to get her accommodated just as she wished!" Well, Mr. S. did not wait for a conclusion of his blarney but left him with his wife and came up to tell us of the remarkable discovery! of the Pres. and that he would not oppose the matter further, so none of us were going to wait his powerful influence to be brought bear. So before he got up on "Sem. hill" the room was engaged. (two of our young ladies volunteering to vacate the pleasantest room in the house for Mrs. S.) well they came: Mr. S. left next day for C. we are well pleased with her so far: she studies Arithmetic, Physiology and Book-keeping and Piano music. She keeps a nurse for her children so one room which accommodated before two young ladies, now pays the same as three; true there are inconveniences to us, having children in the house yet we can put up with it, for we think it will be for the best in the end--- Mr. S. now contemplates making this his permanent place of residence and if so will be, I think, quite an acquisition to our community and town, etc. Mrs. S. has written for two of her sisters to come and attend school. Don't know yet whether they will or not, etc.etc. Now ain't I getting to be "quite a gossip!" My bird visitor is talking Spanish now. she says "pretty Lauretta" and then tells her story in Spanish -- there now she is asking for a cracker -- now imitating a cat -- now an old hen -- I don't know what will come next -- there now she is singing for the baby. I wish you could just step in awhile.

If it is necessary for David to be at your house to insure your coming west, we will send him home by Express; but if not we have a plan in contemplation to open a Book Store and put him in charge of it. You see our book trade is no small item; we order bills every week or two in amount from \$20 to \$80. We supply our own schools



and all in town and several in the adjoining country. Now a Book store is needed for the good of the town and yet one can't be sustained without the patronage of the schools and we won't give up that of course, so there it is -- Yet as I said before we will not use any inducement to keep D here is your coming west, in any way depends on his presence east. -- We have an offer of from \$500 to \$1,000 worth of books for a stock to open with, etc. etc. yet we can manage the thing here in the shape of circulating library etc.etc. and let David go and then he don't care about going into the business here so we will let that drop for the present and if he can be of any use to you we will send him home right away. -- We have beautiful weather here now. Time for improvements to be in progress -- Well we are trying to start things - have paid out nearly \$50 this winter for hauling water; now since this property has come into our hands we have made contract for a well to be dug. The grounds are not yet inclosed - have today ordered lumber for that purpose. Have paid all winter \$.04 per quart for milk, using 6 to 10 quarts per day and now they thing to get it of us during the summer -- but it's no go -- we have struck today for a cow. Tonight after school ~~Mrx~~ we went out to hunt a girl for a nurse to take charge of Mrs! Shaw's children; found one. Yesterday we got a new girl to do our washing and ironing. She is Scotch. Some like Catharine. Franky is well and just as nice as any horse this side of a certain stable in old Milton, Saratoga co. N.Y.

April 4th Well I rather think this letter outlawed, yet I will venture to send it as really I have not time to copy it. Oh such lovely weather; and the traveling couldn't be beat, roads as smooth as a floor. Things are moving --- I have had an interview with Mr. Rinewalt this morning about our plans here for the future and he proposed a meeting of board tomorrow night and wanted us before that time to have in form a plan we are getting up for raising funds to go on with buildings. here and so I have spent the day in writing it out -- it is entirely original -- pleased R very much - 'tis by scholarships etc. haven't time to go into details. Mr. R. says to us as he was about to leave (after asking his advice relative to certain immediate improvements on the premises) "Ladies, go on with them just as you see they are needed and rest assured if you get in a tight place, we stand ready to back you." -- "What you plan for future operations, make it sure that it's going to turn up in that shape that you will be benefitted"---

The deed is given us without any incumbrance: (there was a mortgage on it, but R and Halderman stand in place of it" and R & Halderman take out individual notes for \$2,500 so you see we have a chance to get money on the property to pay them which will be better than paying ten per ct.

April 6 - Well, we had a meeting of Trustees last night -- but little accomplished, as usual, so I am not going to wait any longer to mail this. Let me hear from you soon. I want to write to Mr. Thomas soon but may not have the time so if you have a convenient opportunity you may tell him of the arrangements we have entered into and also of the incumbrance upon us and consequently the necessity which may exist for us to retrench our expenses. Our fund may not be such as to make it in our power to do by Charles as we would wish to without involving ourselves more than we can get through with.

Now sister remember if your coming west in any way depends upon David's going home we will send him at once -- I must close, so good by

from Frank

P.S. Mr. Terrel is coming up tonight to see if we will not employ him the remainder of the year here in Seminary!! I reckon! Well, we will see



(Fragment)

this \$3000 they have stock subscription enough to cover, but cannot be collected under a year or so as it comes in by quarterly installments: this loan they use to finish the building and beautify the grounds. Now since they have concluded to furnish the building, get apparatus etc. themselves, they want another loan of a sum from \$1200 to \$2000. Now about the security, it is such that I should have no fear about, but perhaps I am not a proper judge. The responsible part of the Board propose to give their joint note and also a mortgage on the building etc. true it is already or rather the stock is mortgaged, but there is not a shadow of doubt but the subscription will be applied immediately to discharge that and then there is a clear security of a building and appurtenances valued at least \$6500 besides the note of such men as Messrs. Rinewalt, Halderman and Wilson. Rate per ct. 10 and time two, three, or four years as may suit the loaner. I have told the Trustees that I should look to you in the matter and abide your decision. You know we talked about building up a school of our own and they think I suppose that if we have anything we might risk as much as \$1000 in the enterprise now it is so fairly under way. I was writing to Mr. Thomas the other day and mentioned to him our want and enquired if he knew of any money the trustees might get etc. but gave him no particulars; should he enquire of you you can give him the security as I have stated it here. Perhaps your business men may see it to be not sufficient; yet it seems to me our trustees would not misrepresent it to us. I have told them I would write you on the subject and Esqr. Wilson is quite sanguine that you will do something for us; and they will defer further action till we hear from you and if need be still further, till you come out. We have engaged to make use of what we have by us to procure such materials as necessary to have the furnishing going on and take Messrs. R. H & W note for our security. I feel condemned every time I trouble you about money matters for I presume you have business of your own as much as you wish to be troubled with, but you know there is no one else I can look to and this seems the time I need what little aid I can have as much (as) I ever shall, indeed every thing depends upon how we commence operations in this building. We wish them on a liberal scale and such as will draw in the better class of scholars from abroad (from the cities around us etc.) Yet dear Sir do not hesitate to tell me just what you think and further do not give yourself trouble and embarrass yourself in any way for I certainly have no claims upon you or any right to expect you to do so and would be illy repaying you for all your kindness to me and worse repaying the gratitude I owe you. But enough of this! I hope the boys will have Greg in good plight when I get home as I shall have plenty of business for him. I shall bring out my harness when I return -- we shall be situated so as to have a horse kept when we get into the Seminary and it seems to me I can't stand it any longer without one. The Trustees are going to have necessary out buildings put up immediately and they design to keep a hired man all the time at work about the buildings, on the grounds, etc. etc. But you will so soon be here that I need not tell any more of our plans.



(Note on outside of letter:

Prof. Whittlesey

Recvd. Aug. 2d. 1867

&

" " ans'd.

See Letter Bk. )

F.A.W. Shimer & Gregory:

Your favor rec'd. I would recommend Miss Ophelia Mason. She is now here and will soon graduate. She has taught music before, - came here to finish her studies. She has just rec'd an application from the Principal of the School in which she taught previous to her coming to Music Vale. They are very anxious to have her return. This is merely in her favor. My own judgment is that she will suit you. She is willing to come. She had four hundred and all found, before she came here at all, of course she now feels as though her services should be worth more. You can arrange that matter I think satisfactorily. Miss Mason is a very fine player. She is thorough and systematic. More so than any young lady I have met in a long time. She is a member of the Christian church. She has a strong, well cultivated voice, but it is not sweet like that of Miss Manross (?). It is a good leading voice and in that capacity as a teacher she will not disappoint you.

I could name young ladies who have charming voices but they would not suit you otherwise. They are good girls, so called, and attract much attention in society, but they love dress. The like "a little flirtation" as it's called and you and I both know, that such an example and such influence will not answer in a teacher of many pupils. We never recommend such if we know it.

Miss Mason has had an excellent influence here and her being called back to the old place shows that she must have done well. We have two young ladies here who are both fine singers, very fine, but they will not Graduate until next summer. Both are excellent pupils and their example and influence such as you would like. But it is hard, very hard to find a superior Pianist, a superior Vocalist and a superior Lady in every respect. These two that I mention are exceptions and if you do not secure Miss Mason this season, I hope you will allow us to send you one of these young ladies next year. If however, you can secure Miss Mason's services I am positive you will like her.

I cannot send Photograph for the reason that she has none which does her justice. She is a "Little body" short and trim, neat and modest, no called pretty, but is lady like and attractive. Her health seems excellent. I don't know that she has lost a day since she has been here. She is punctuality itself. Miss M. also has a call to Lexington, Ky. I have told her of you, of your kindness to our former teacher and she thinks more favorably of your school than of any thing yet offered. You will have the kindness to address her here at your earliest convenience, it being necessary for her to decide soon as she is obliged to teach somewhere. Miss M. plays the guitar well and is otherwise well educated.

Very truly your friend

C Whittlesey

M Maginnis (?)

Music Vale

Mon. July 29, 1867.